



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 20, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6216

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This is in response to your letter, dated February 8, 2005, to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales regarding the investigation of the leak of information regarding the identity of covert CIA operative Valerie Plame. We are sending an identical response to Congressman Waxman who joined in your letter to us.

As your letter indicates, Patrick Fitzgerald, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, is handling the investigation at the request of Deputy Attorney General James Comey, and Attorney General Gonzales is recused from the matter. The Attorney General's Chief of Staff Ted Ulyot, Deputy Chief of Staff Kyle Sampson, and Counselor Raul Yanes are also recused from the matter. We assure you that this matter will be handled appropriately and impartially, and the Department of Justice will take all steps that are necessary to insure public confidence in the fairness of the investigation.

We appreciate your writing to express your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman